

Maine's and New Brunswick's Deadliest Catch

WHO's NEXT ?



NOAA HSRP Panel
May 5, 2010

Overview

- The (Very) Sad Facts and an Area Overview
- The NOAA Search
- The Recovery Attempts
- Conclusions and Recommendations

The Sad Facts

On January 23rd, 2004 the 32 foot Urchin Dragger **LO-DA-KASH** departed Campobello for Mace's Bay.

About 11 miles from Campobello near Black's Harbor very close to shore, the vessel deployed a drag from a high block on an A-Frame and subsequently sank very quickly. She was fishing alone.

- Captain **Paul Wilson**, 44, Lost – Missing
- Deckhand Mr. **Trent Gilmor**, 32, Lost – Swam ashore and died of exposure. He was found on February 4th.
- Guest Ms. **Marilyn Ross**, 47, Lost – Body recovered
- Guest Mr. **Wes Boulter**, 70, Lost – Body recovered

The Sad Facts

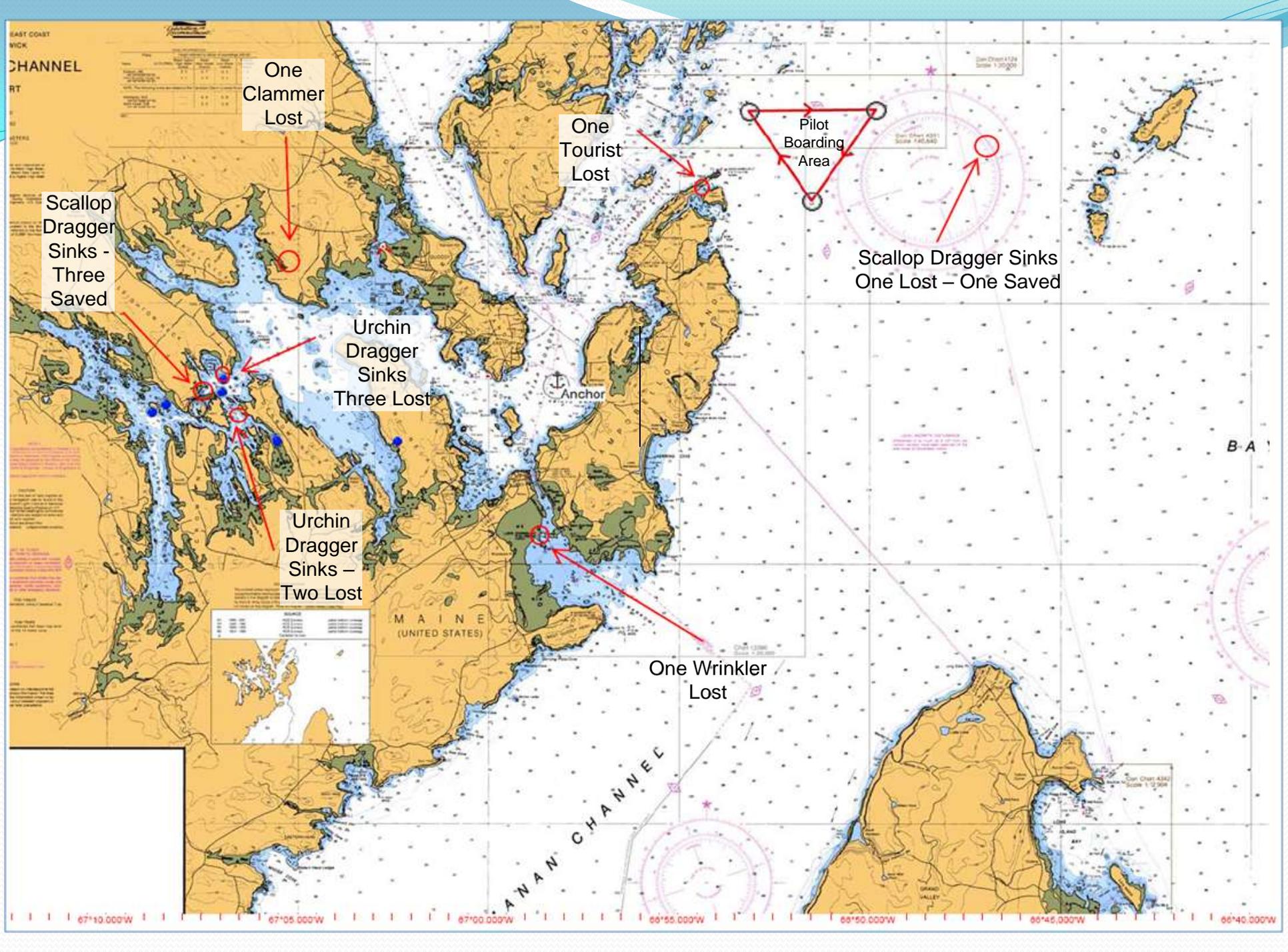
- August 18, 2006 – Lost Scallop Dragger **BRAIDEN G** between the Wolves and Campobello
- Captain **Wade Gallagher** of Campobello Lost – Missing
Deck crewman Mr. Andre Mallette saved by USCG Eastport
 - December 2, 2008 – Wrinkler **Mr. Kristopher Ferguson** Lost on the mudflats in South Lubec – Body recovered 9 days later
 - March 24, 2009 – Lost the **ALL AMERICAN** dragging in Cobscook
 - Captain **Loran Lank** of Lubec Lost – Body recovered
 - Deckhand **Mr. Logan Preston**, Lost – Body recovered Dec. 23

The Sad Facts

- September 8, 2009 **Mr. John Albotin**, a tourist from Plymouth MA dies at Head Harbor Light - washed off the bar – body recovered - Mrs. Albotin survives after attempting rescue.
- October 20, 2009 Urchin dragger **BOTTOM BASHER** lost in Cobscook
 - Owner **Mr. Joe Jones** of Trescott lost – Missing
 - Operator **Mr. Daryl Cline** of Machiasport lost – Body recovered
 - Deckhand **Mr. Norman Johnson** of Cutler Lost – Body recovered
December 19th

The Sad Facts

- Nov 10th to Nov 14, 2009 Clammer **Mr. Arthur “Skip” Calder** of Perry lost in Cobscook – Body Recovered
- January 23, 2010 the scallop dragger **MISS PRISS** lost in Cobscook
 - Captain Kirby Schenk and crew of the **NASTY TWO** rescue:
 - Captain William Feltner Jr. of Lubec
 - Deckhand Mr. Carl Sizemore
 - Deckhand Mr. Evan Matthews
- February 18, 2010 the scallop dragger **WHOLE FAMILY** from White Head Island sank off Grand Manan
 - Captain **Harold Cossaboom** 45, missing
 - Deck Hand **Cory Cossaboom** 36, missing





NOAA Search 11-3-09
Reversing Falls

NOAA Search Area
Around Falls Island

LT Matt Jaskoski
LCDR Matt Wingate

NOAA Search - LCDR Matt Wingate

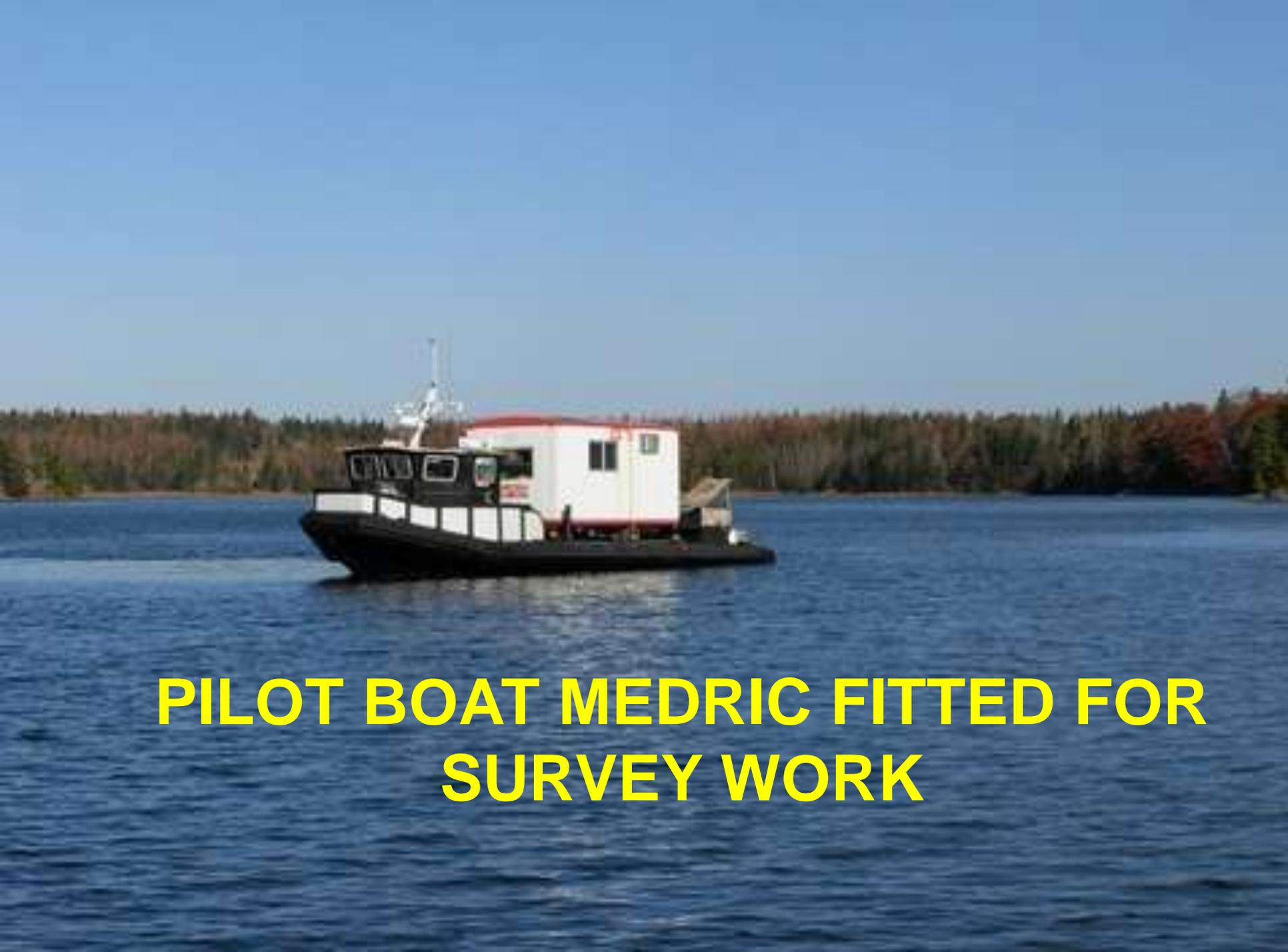


LT MATT JASKOSKI - MR. MICHAEL ANNIS – MR. VITAD PRADITH



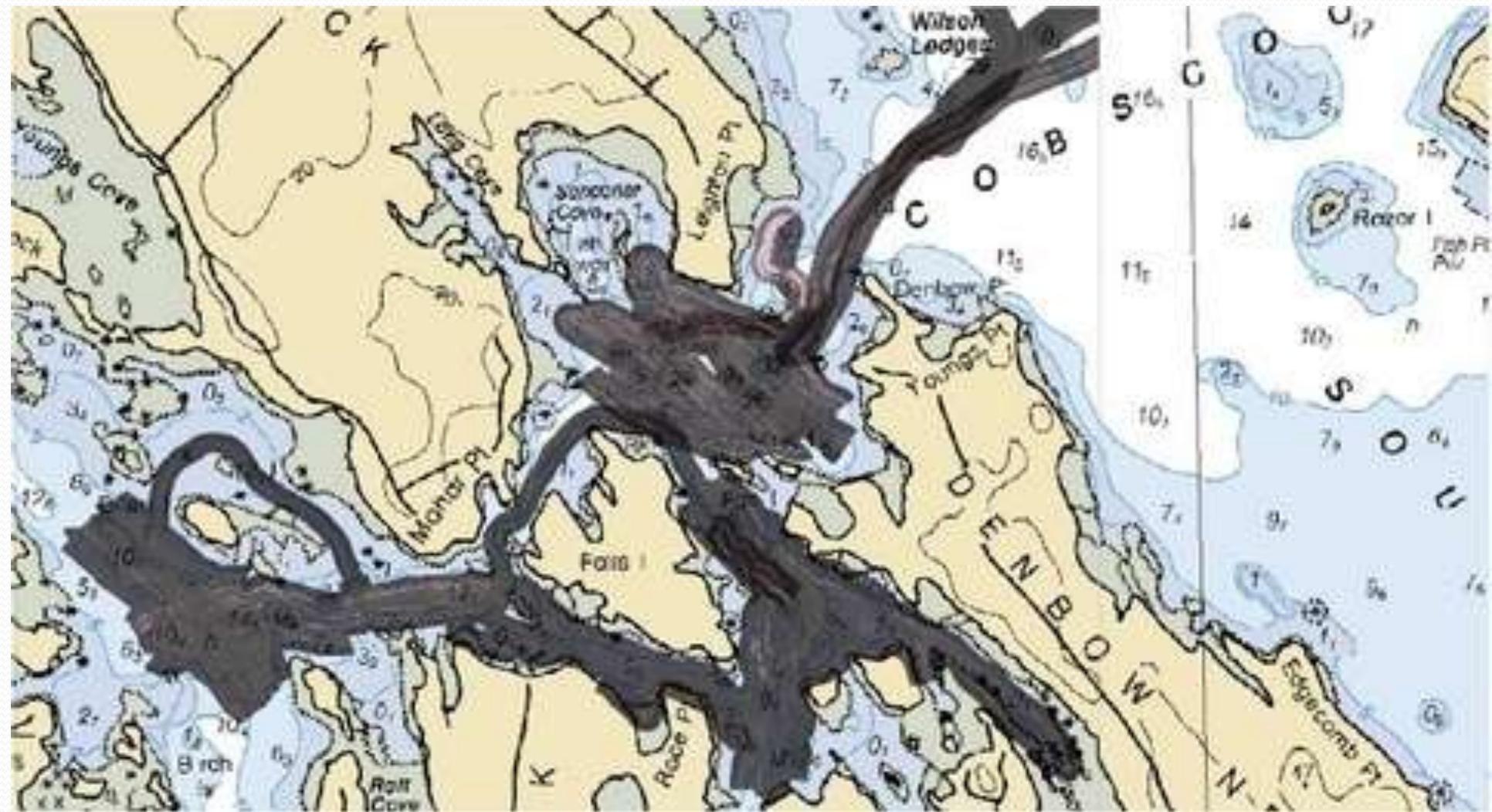


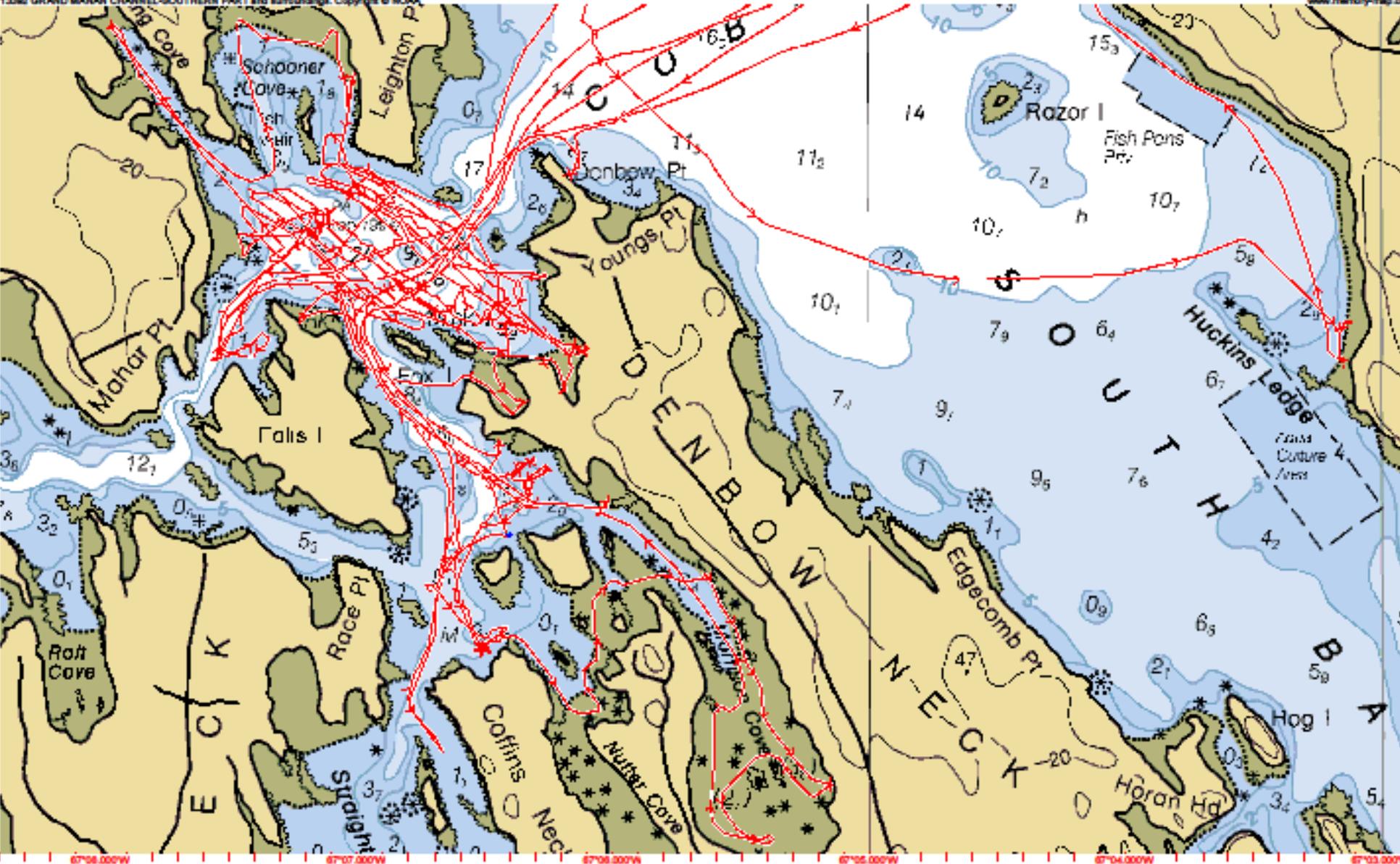
**NOAA KLIEN 2900
Side Scan Sonar**



**PILOT BOAT MEDRIC FITTED FOR
SURVEY WORK**

NOAA SURVEY AREA – 3 DAYS NOV 2009





NOAA Search Nov. 3, 4, 5, 2009
Cobscook Bay 10

Combined MEDRIC Tracks
Sonar & Visual Search

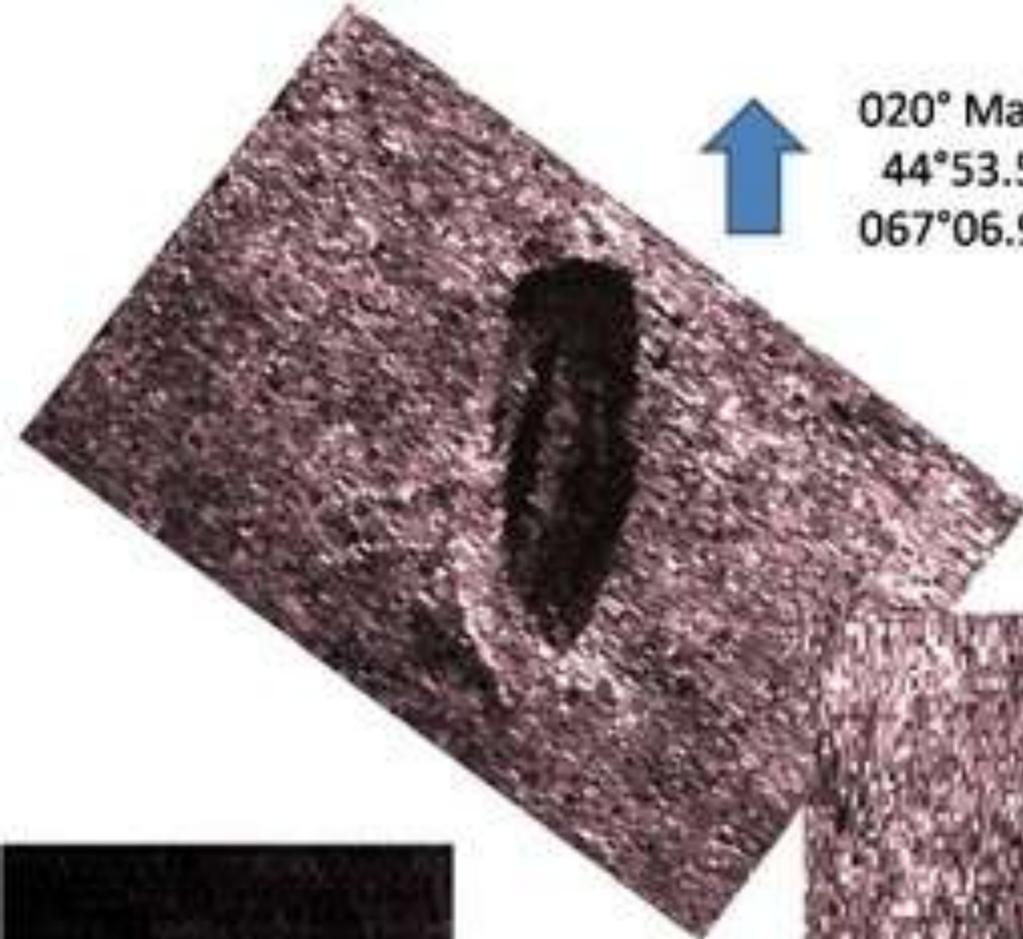
Capt. Ralph DeWitt
Mate Cecil Cates

NOAA results

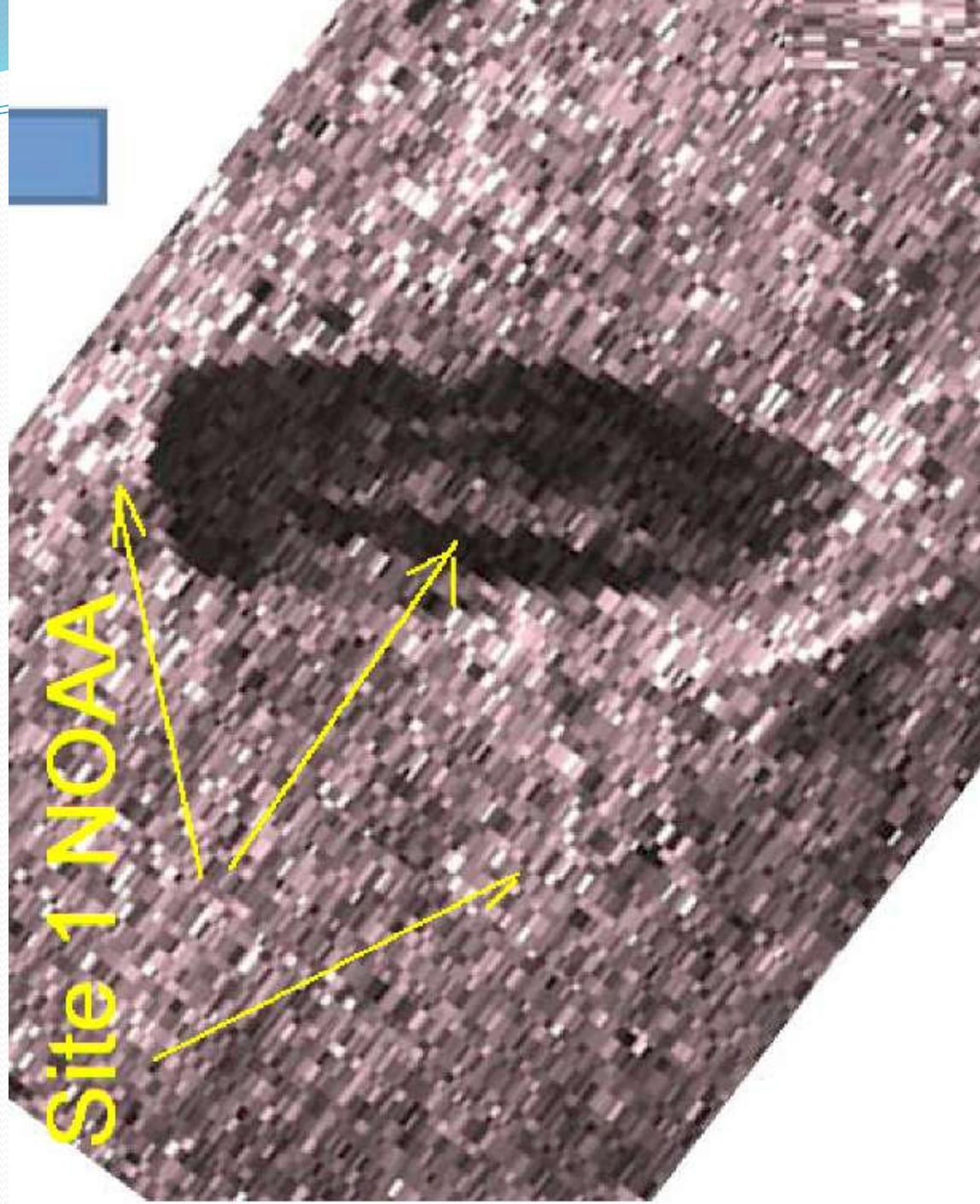
- 5 “Areas of Interest”



020° Mag
44°53.5264N
067°06.9309W



Site 1 NOAA

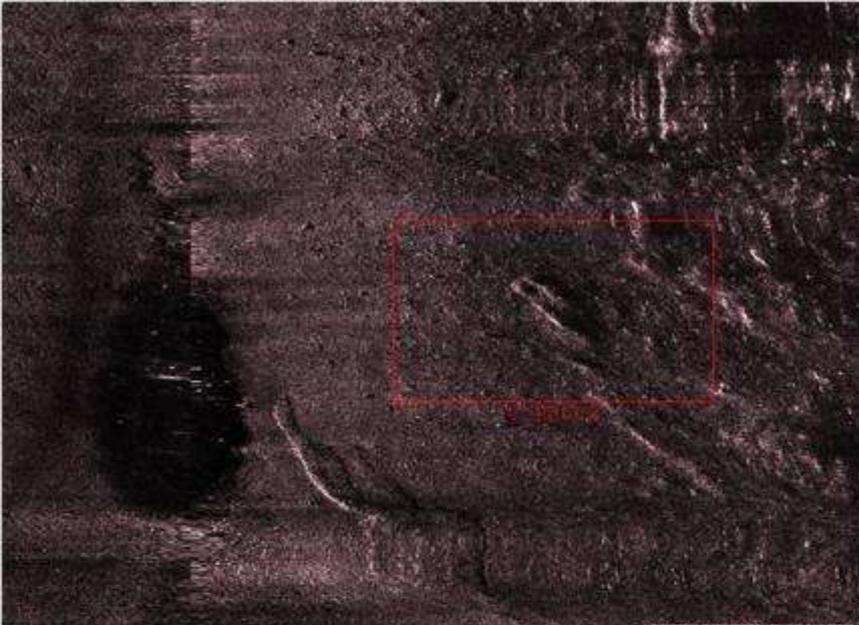




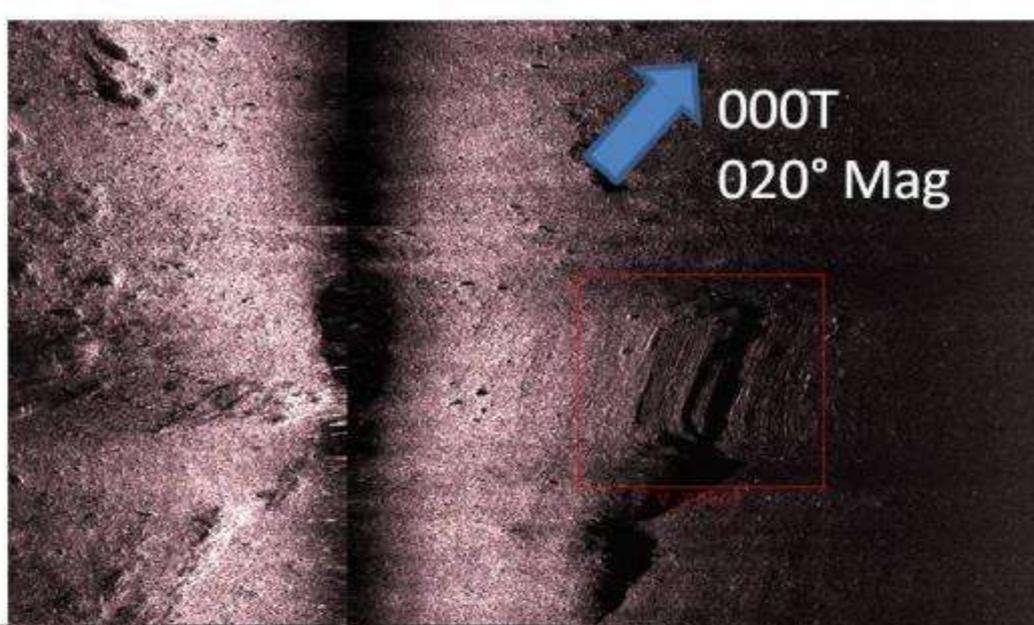
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020° Mag



44°53.2729N
067°06.9867W

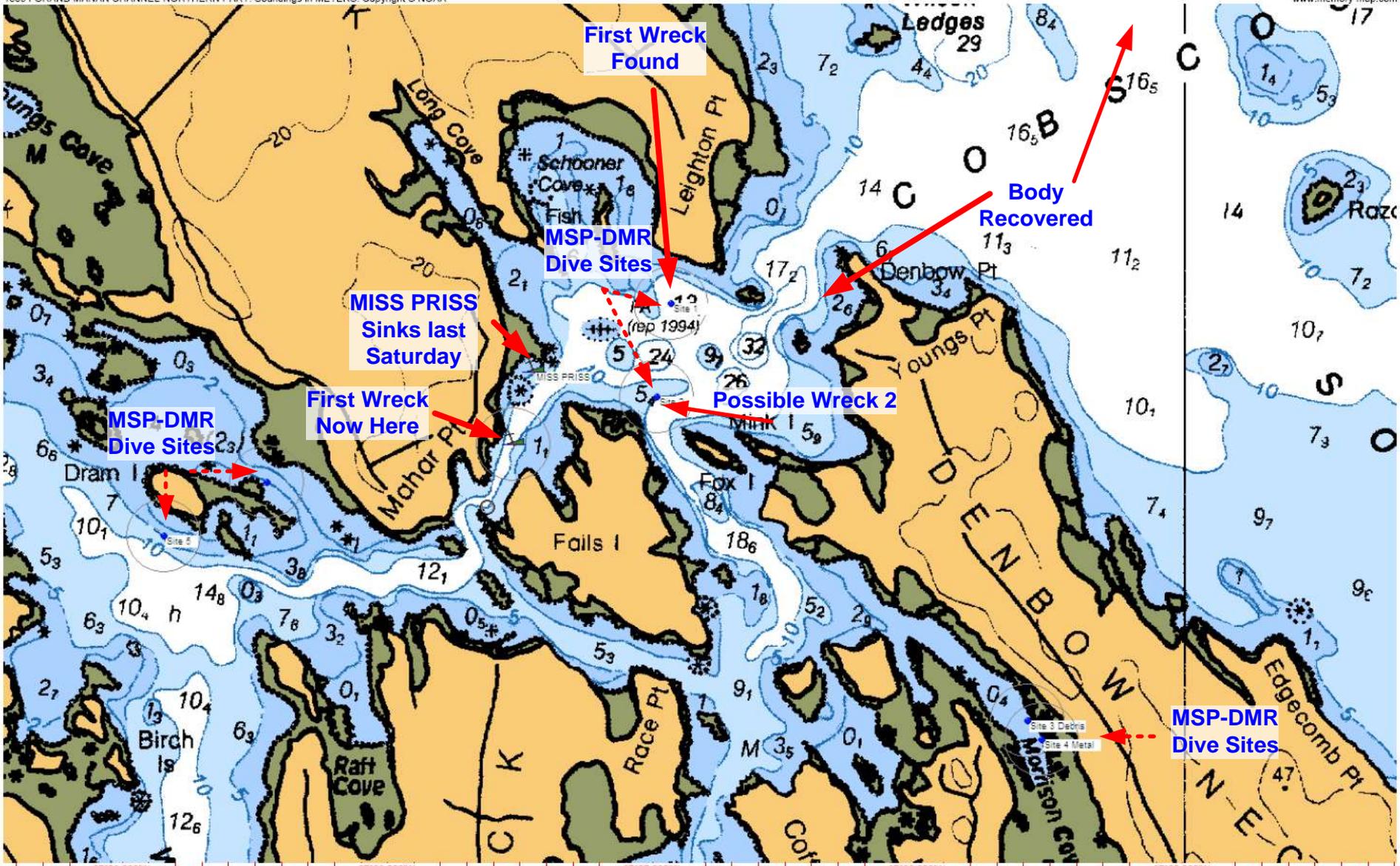


44°52.8963N
067°08.8440W



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020° Mag





67°09.000'W

67°08.000'W

67°07.000'W

67°06.000'W

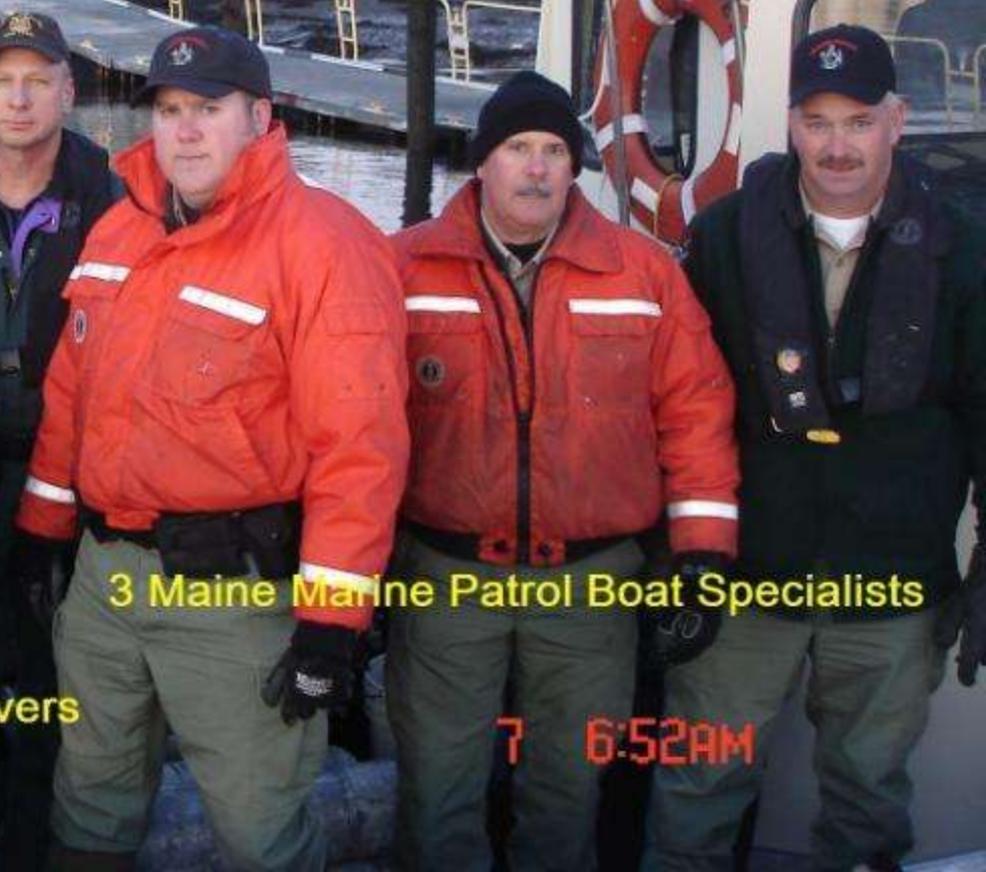
67°05.000'W

Cobscook Search 12-7-09
MSP Officer Matt Grant - Dive Team Commander

5 Maine State Police Divers



3 Maine Marine Patrol Boat Specialists



2 Maine Marine Patrol Divers

7 6:52AM

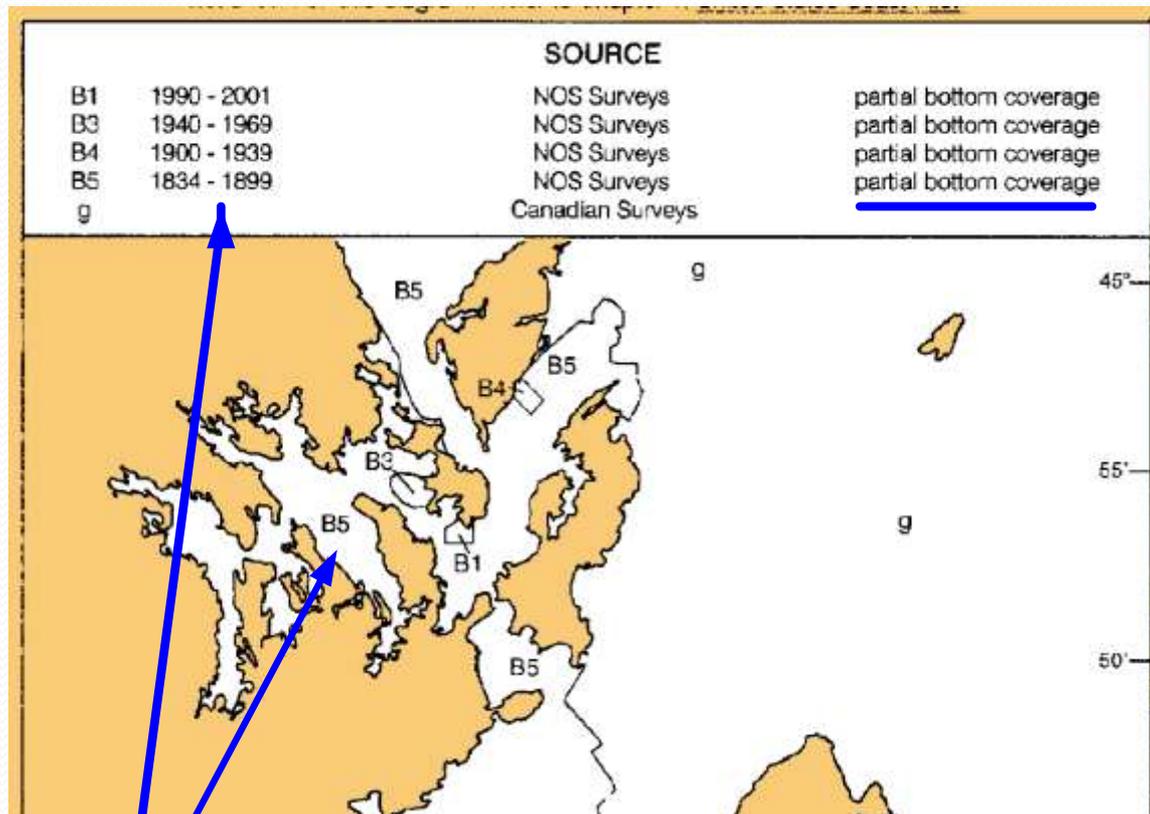
Search - Recovery Team Effort

- Local Fishermen
- Maine Marine Patrol – DMR
- Maine State Police Dive Team
- Bucks Harbor Correctional Facility – Dept of Corrections
- Maine Emergency Communications – Maine Forestry Service – Dept. of Conservation
- United States Coast Guard
- Cooke Aquaculture
- Senator Olympia Snowe and Chief of Staff Gail Kelley
- Capt Gerald Morrison – Morrison Manufacturing

Search - Recovery Team Effort

- NOAA Navigational Services Division
- NOAA Office of Coast Survey
- NOAA Navigational Response Team Five
- Peacock Canning – Bobby Hood & Capt. Ralph DeWitt
- Ramsdell Construction
- Town of Lubec
- Sheldon Stanley Construction Co.
- Capt. Roger Preston and Capt David Cline
- ISF Trading - Portland

Survey Dates for Cobscook Bay



**NOTE: Area B5 (Cobscook Bay)
Surveyed in 1834 and 1899**

**and only Partial Bottom
Coverage**

**Towing Low
Campobello
March 31, 2010**



Partial List of Scallop and Urchin Dragger Lost from Washington & Charlotte Counties in the last 21 years

1989	SHE & I	Grand Manan – Duck I. Sound		
1990	SURF TIDE	Off West Quoddy – Black Rock	1 Lost	Working Alone
1994	JODIE LYNN	Denbow Point - Cobscook		
1996	FOUR SISTERS	Off Eastport - Friar Roads		
1999	SCRAPPY DOO	Goose Island - Cobscook		
2002	MATTHEW & MARK	Falls Island - Cobscook		
2004	LO-DA-KASH	Campobello - Mace's Bay	4 Lost	Working Alone
2006	BRAIDEN G	Campobello - Wolves	1 Lost	Working Alone
2009	ALL AMERICAN	Leighton Point - Cobscook	2 Lost	Working Alone
2009	BOTTOM BASHER	Leighton Point - Cobscook	3 Lost	Working Alone
2010	MISS PRISS	Falls Island - Cobscook		
2010	WHOLE FAMILY	Grand Manan	2 Lost	Working Alone

What caused these accidents?

In my personal opinion:

- 1. Fishing alone – no other boat in the area
- 2. Lack of stability (towing drags from a high block on the A frame)
- 3. **Poor chart presentations based on very old surveys**
- 4. Economic pressures – overfished areas – closed areas
- 5. Medical conditions – Fatigue
- 6. Lack of education concerning stability and survival in the water
- 7. Towing with the tide on days with spring tides & heavy currents
- 8. Poor navigation – See above – **Poor Charts**
- 9. Inexperience in new areas or with new boats
- 10. No PFD or manually inflatable vest. These boats flip in seconds.

My **personal** recommendations:

- Have NOAA resurvey the entire Cobscook area from North Lubec westward to Whiting, Edmunds, and Dennysville and produce **much** larger scale marine charts for fishing. We **know** there are at least 7 wrecks and several uncharted rocks in the area.
- Close the area around Falls Island to all dragging unless 3 simple rules are followed:
 - All vessels dragging in the Falls Island zone must have a “buddy” fishing vessel within sight (i.e. **NO FISHING ALONE**)
 - All personnel fishing in or transiting the Falls Island zone must **wear a manual inflatable vest** or PFD (provide training in cold water)
 - Dragging in the Falls Island zone must not be done from a high block on the A frame. (**TOW LOW**)

Ask Yourself – Who's Next?

**No one on the 12 boats that sank
thought they would be next!**

Thank You – Be Safe

**God Bless NOAA for
their work for our
Families**

• Bob Peacock